

INTERCULTURAL ENCOUNTERS FOR A WELCOMING COMMUNITY

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE PATHWAYS PROSPERITY

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VOIES VERS LA
PROSPÉRITÉ

Promouvoir des communautés accueillantes au Canada



*Conseil d'administration 2015-2016
RIFE-Rencontre Interculturelle des Familles de l'Estrie*

Outline

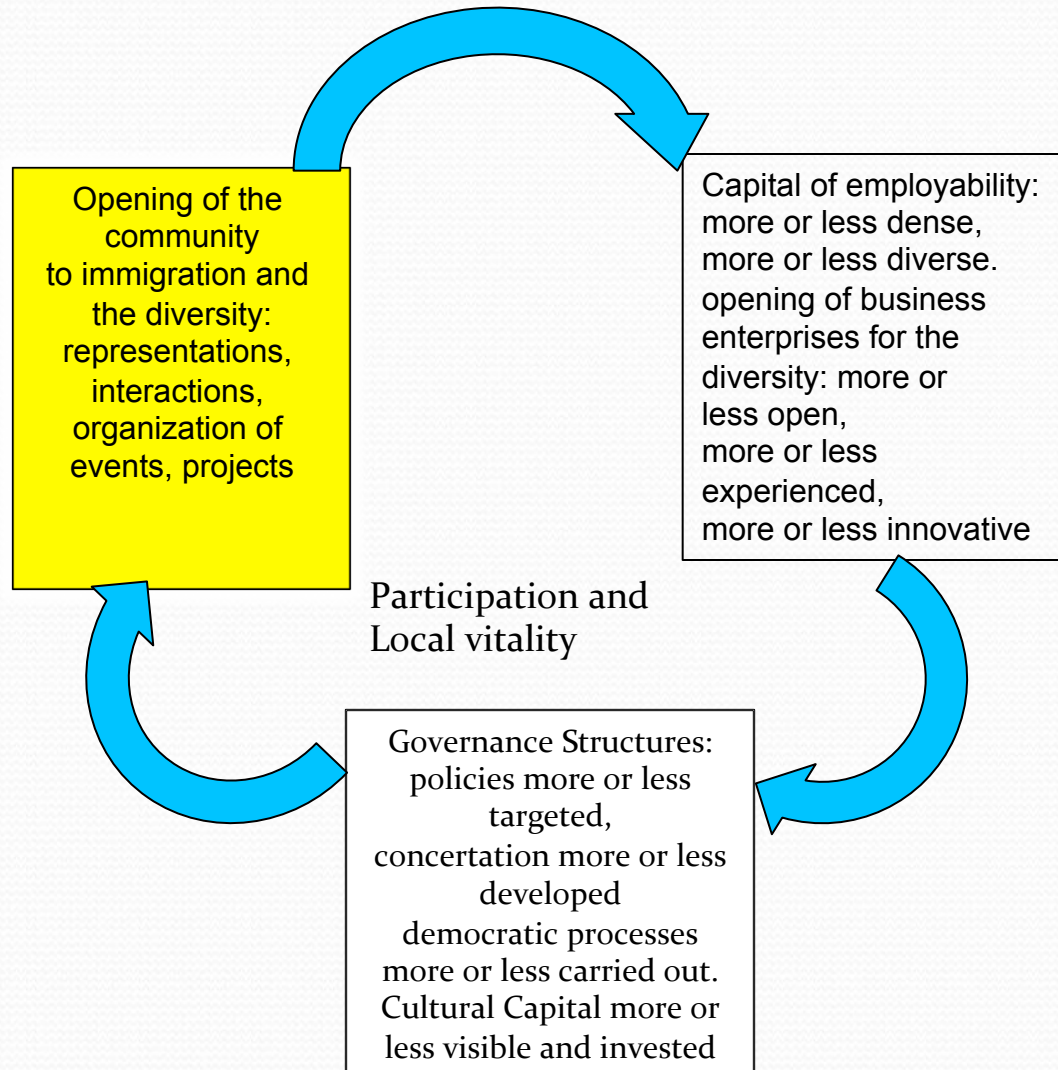
- Highlight the dimensions of a welcoming community
- Explain how the concept of the welcoming community can be articulated in a dynamic model and be adapted to the regions and local communities of Quebec
- Show that it can provide spaces for meetings and exchanges between individuals and communities.

A review of literature on the welcoming communities: indicators (CIC- Esses et al.)

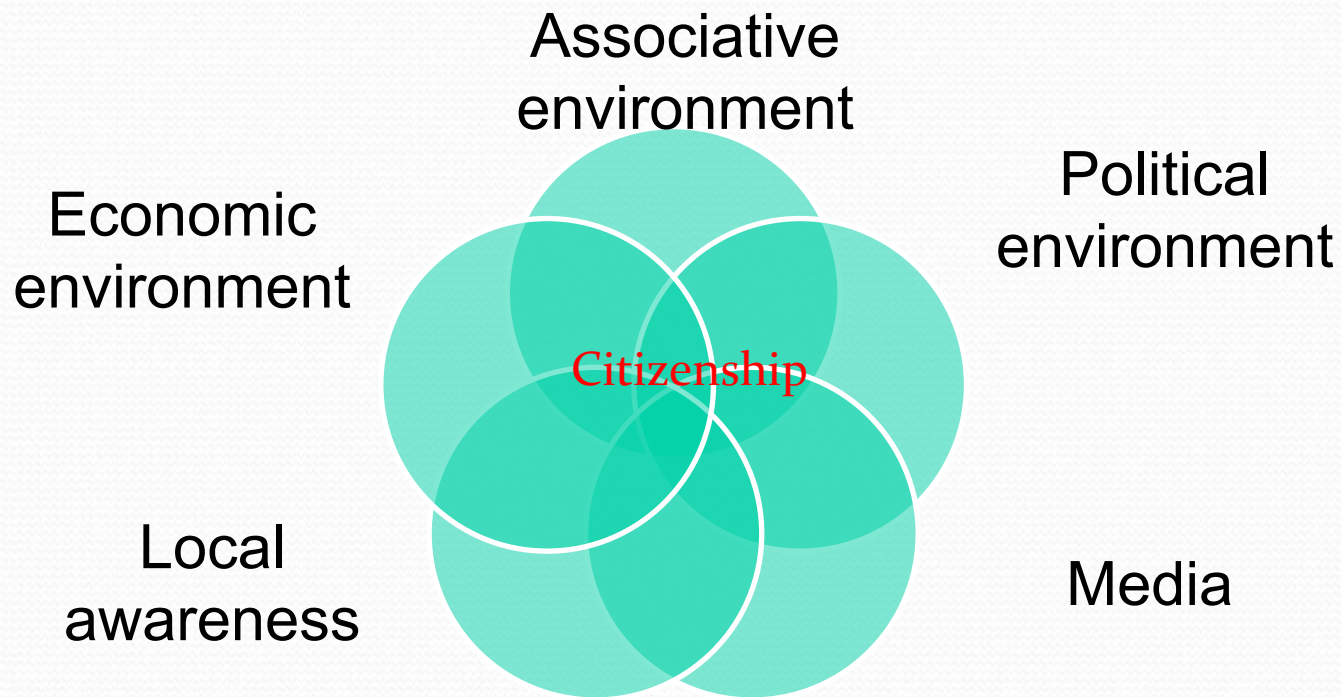
Employment opportunities
Social capital
Affordable housing
Organizations dedicated to newcomers
Municipal policies and practices integrating the immigrants
Accessible Health Services
A transport service accessible
Religious organizations diversified
Positive relations with the police services and justice
Security
Accessible public spaces and leisure

Opportunities of social commitment
Opportunities for political participation
Positive attitude toward diversity
Concertation between the actors
Opportunities for education for all
A good media coverage

Participation and local vitality conceptual framework (diagram of Vatz Laaroussi, Bernier and Guilbert, 2013)



Local development and citizenship







The dimensions of a welcoming community

Spaces for dialogue

Spaces of mediation

Spaces of recognition



Context

- Sherbrooke city targeted by the policy of regionalization and city welcoming immigrants and refugees.
- University City: international students at l'Université de Sherbrooke
- 7% of the total population is the result of immigration
- Challenges: Host, give a place and retain the immigrant population.
- Stakes: intercultural connectiveness

HISTOIRES D'ICI DES GENS D'AILLEURS

TÉMOIGNAGES DE FAMILLES
IMMIGRANTES ET QUÉBÉCOISES
EN ESTRIE



Brief overview of RIFE Rencontre Interculturelle des Familles de l'Etrie

(Intercultural Encounter of Families of the Eastern Townships)

What is the RIFE?

- Non-profit and non-governmental community organization.
- Promote interculturality in Estrie.
- Create opportunities for meetings and focus on the reconciliations-mediations-harmony between the families of all origins and all religions
- Association multi-ethnic, multilingual, intercultural and intergenerational
- Forces: skills varied within the CA, interest for intercultural relationships, commitment, expertise, financial and political autonomy, involvement.

Create a favorable context : the backdrop of “Living together”

Intercultural Philosophy

- Importance of networks
- Importance of the informal and personal relationships
- Friendliness
- Openness to every citizen
- Free activities and incentives to participate (nursery, transport)

Values of social justice, of human rights and fight against racism and discrimination

Our contribution to the community

INPUT

- Contemporary subjects
- Taking into account the needs (information, awareness, training, etc.)
- Interest and sensitivity for the intercultural and multicultural
- Varied Experiences of the members of the CA as an immigrant and Quebec citizens
- Voluntary involvement, availability, different skills of the members of the CA
- Intercultural and intergenerational Interchange within the CA
- Collaboration and partnerships various
- Financial autonomy
- Recognition by municipality, institutions, other agencies and organizations

ACTIONS

- Citizen Actions
- CauseRifes
- Popular and citizen Education
- Forums
- Claims and defense of rights
- Researches-actions
- Involvement in international networks (ARIC, plurales, Metropolis etc.), and national (CURA, P2P, ACFAS, etc.)
- Intercommunity mediations, institutional, and intergenerational

OUTPUT

Spaces

- **Citizen participation**
- **Recognition**
- **Respect**
- **Exchanges**
- **Knowledge creation**
- **Innovations**



Photo souvenir de l'activité interculturelle regroupant 11 jeunes et 11 familles immigrantes. pour la préparation et la dégustation de repas. organisée par la Coalition sherbrookoise pour le travail de rue en collaboration avec le RIFE (Rencontre interculturelle des familles de l'Estrie), le 27 octobre 2001 dans les locaux de Sercovie à Sherbrooke.

conclusion

Intercultural-Multicultural spaces and networks



Invested common space where local and immigrant citizens can grow together.



Meeting spaces



Social and Citizen Participation

Conclusion

Intercultural NGO= create positive linkages between the citizens, build bridges between the citizens and the institution, intercultural connectiveness

- Challenges:
 - Maintain our financial autonomy
 - Fight against racism (Islamophobia)
 - Wider participation of quebecois citizens
 - Working with the media
 - Maintain free activities

Références

Belkhodja C. et Vatz Laaroussi M., Immigration hors des grands centres : enjeux, politiques et pratiques dans cinq états fédéraux. Ed. L'Harmattan, collection Compétences interculturelles, 2012.

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Vatz Laaroussi M., Bernier E. et Guilbert L., Les collectivités locales au cœur de l'intégration des immigrants: enjeux identitaires et stratégies régionales. PUL, 2013.





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